

EL PORTAL

the Gateway

SPRING 2014 | ISSUE 5



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF SAN PABLO AND SAN PABLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Meeting Calendar

- **City Council**
First and third Monday at 6:00 pm
 - **Planning Commission**
Third Tuesday at 6:30 pm
 - **2014 SPEDC Board Meeting**
Third Wednesday, 6:00 pm at the SPEDC office: 13830 San Pablo Ave., Ste. D
 - **Safety Commission**
Last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm
 - **Youth Commission**
First and third Thursday at 5:00 pm
- All meetings are held in the City Council Chambers: 13831 San Pablo Avenue unless otherwise indicated.

Featured Events

- **Bike to Work Day:** May 8th Stop by the energizer station located in the San Pablo City Hall parking lot
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** April 19, 2014 10 am -12 pm at Davis Park (1616 Folsom Ave. San Pablo, CA)
- **Dumpster Day:** dump your unwanted items @ 2600 Moraga Ave in San Pablo. Saturday, April 26th, 7:30am -12:00pm We will not accept tires and hazardous materials. Please bring proof of residence with you (I.D. and a copy of your PG&E or EBMUD statement).

Events at SPEDC

- **Removing Barriers**, clinic every 3rd Saturday of the month: 8:00 am to noon
- **Census Data for Businesses**, June 12
- **Census Data for Non-profits**, June 17
- **SPEDC Business Speed Networking Event**, June 26 at 5:30-6:30 PM

All events are held at the SPEDC offices: 13830 San Pablo Avenue, Suite D (Adobe Plaza @ Church Lane). Call 510-215-3200 or visit www.sanpabloedc.org

Inside this Issue

- **New SPEDC Members**, Pg. 2
- **Success Stories**, Pg. 3
- **Community Center**, Pg. 3
- **MEASURE K**, Pg. 4
- **DMC to Close**, Pg. 5
- **Risk a Lawsuit**, Pg. 6
- **Starting a Business**, Pg. 7
- **Clean Energy**, SCCAP, Pg. 7

SPEDC Workforce Milestone Event

On January 23, 2014, the San Pablo EDC welcomed its workforce development partners, job training program participants, local employers and supporters to celebrate local efforts to put West County to work.



Congressman George Miller opens the SPEDC Inaugural Milestone event.

This was the SPEDC's inaugural milestone event and it focused on how strong, dynamic partnerships are helping the SPEDC create economic opportunity. But we can only create the opportunity. It is then up to those we serve to make the decision to step up and do the hard work. They change their lives.

Opening the event were Contra Costa County Board Supervisor John Gioia and Congressman George Miller. Participants graciously and candidly shared their stories, including the difficulty of making commitments to training and job readiness programs like these, as well as the struggles they face even as they complete the programs. These stories un-

derscored the importance of finding the right partners and putting our modest resources together to create something that truly makes a difference.

The SPEDC partners to create program opportunities that help get our workforce trained in areas of the economy that are

stable or growing. We look at how we then can build the skills to improve retention and provide career advancement. Those programs include:

RichmondBUILD

RichmondBUILD offers a skills-building program within the construction trades that qualifies participants for pre-apprenticeship. This includes additional training opportunities in carpentry, electrical, HazMat and solar.

- To date, the RichmondBUILD program has trained 40 San Pablo residents and had a positive impact on all of West County.
- **Speaker:** Fred Lucero on behalf of Yao Saetern, graduate

Contra Costa Community College

Contra Costa Community College created a forklift, logistics, operations and warehouse job training
(Continued on back page)



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- Rich Kinney, Councilmember
- Cecilia Valdez, Councilmember
- Genoveva Garcia Calloway, Councilmember

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www.facebook.com/sanpabloca

Welcome New SPEDC Members

Welcome two of our newest members: Melody Moore from Moore Travel and Billy Lazeuz from LegalShield.



Melody Moore held management positions in the healthcare industry for nearly 23 years before a restructure in 2013 prompted her to book her first cruise abroad with the Royal Caribbean Oasis of the Seas. Melody's travel experience was so life-changing, she decided to begin a home-based travel agency in collaboration with Cruise Planners and became an entrepreneur. Moore Travel specializes in streamlined leisure and luxury travel planning, including cruises and tours around the world. Moore Travel offers the lowest prices available for premier service as a Cruise Planners affiliate.

As a member of the SPEDC, Melody plans to take advantage of the many marketing opportunities the SPEDC has to offer. For special travel deals, go to www.sanpabloedc.org/directory and click on Moore Travel's profile. ■



Billy Lazeuz, a longtime resident of West Contra Costa County, has been actively engaged within the San Pablo business community. After owning and operating his own automotive service business for over seven years, San Pablo Auto Smog Check, Billy Lazeuz is now an independent associate for LegalShield.

LegalShield gives people the power to talk to an attorney about any legal issue from real estate document review and will preparation to traffic violations, identity theft protection and more. Whether it's big, small or somewhere in between, the LegalShield Provider Law Firm offers advice and assistance on a variety of issues. Each LegalShield plan is designed to protect and empower clients to worry less and focus on their business more. ■

Help for Employers

Through its One Stop service centers, East Bay Works provides two services local employers should take advantage of to save money on staffing: (1) Employee referrals and (2) On the Job Training (OJT).

San Pablo has a One Stop located in College Center near the Library. The One Stop works with employers to fill open positions with employees who have been pre-screened. They can help employers cut the recruitment time and costs dramatically by providing a number of qualified candidates for hiring managers.

The One Stop can also coordinate OJT agreements. OJT is a

program by which an employer agrees to train someone on the job. Should that person consistently show up, be on time, and perform well over the course of six months, the employer agrees to consider hiring that individual. In exchange for the skills training, the employer can be reimbursed for up to half of that employee's salary or \$4,000.

The SPEDC encourages local businesses to utilize the services

of the San Pablo One Stop and East Bay Works to help your resources go further and increase the number of successful hires.

For staffing services, contact the San Pablo One Stop at 510-412-6740. For OJT, East Bay Works employer liaison is Michael Castor who may be reached at 510-412-6758 or mcastor@ehsd.cccounty.us. ■

Putting San Pablo to Work: Success Stories

Raquel Garcia



Raquel is the first graduate of Removing Barriers' Job Readiness program, launched last Fall in alignment with the tattoo removal program. The San Pablo EDC is proud of her accomplishments and the positive changes she has made in her life. She is a model for others looking to launch their careers and make a better life for themselves and their families.

Raquel Garcia has been on a path for the past two years to improve her life and change her family's future. The mother of two small children, Raquel went back to school at Contra Costa Community College to get her degree in Criminal Justice. Her past is very different from the life she leads today, and she wanted the opportunity to erase those visible reminders - to not have to explain things she no longer means to her kids. She wants to feel like a con-

fident professional, and removing her tattoos is a critical part of that process. Raquel started coming to Removing Barriers right after the program opened in April 2013. When the program launched its job readiness curriculum, Raquel signed up and became the first participant to successfully complete 10 weeks of hard- and soft-skills training, including four weeks of financial literacy. For successfully completing the program and practicing positive financial habits, Raquel was reimbursed her registration fee and received three free tattoo removal sessions.

Karen Horne



Karen Horne was born California but moved to Florida at a young age. In Florida, she worked as a customer service representative and quality control, but she wanted to do something different, she wanted a change. She had the op-

portunity to return to California and decided this move was the start of a new career path.

"My husband and I moved to San Pablo five months ago and we quickly visited the EastBay One Stop Center. We read the flyer and decided this may be just what we were looking for. I have always had an interest in IT but I was not sure how to start that as a career. I simply called the Stride Center, attended in the information session and in no time, I was starting my IT classes."

"It's been over 15 years since I was last in school and going back now has definitely given me the courage to continue and thrive for something more. Every test I take gives me more self-confidence that I can do anything I truly put myself to do."

Karen just graduated from the IC3 course and is now taking the next class to obtain her A+ certification. She would like to thank the San Pablo EDC and the Stride Center for providing those individuals without the financial means to have the opportunity to get the education and training they need for a better life. ■

BILINGUAL COMPUTER CLASSES

Basic computer literacy classes in English and Spanish. See a class you like but the time frame doesn't work for your schedule? Call (510) 215-3200 to request different class times for a future session. We will schedule sessions to meet demands.

Introduction to Microsoft Office Suite (English & Spanish) begins **April 8th for 5 weeks**. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6–8 PM.

Introduction to Windows 7 (English & Spanish) begins **April 15th for 3 weeks**. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4–6 PM. (tentative)

Introduction to QuickBooks (English & Spanish) begins **April 21st for 6 weeks**. Mondays from 6–8 PM.

Introduction to Microsoft Office Suite (English & Spanish) begins **May 6th for 5 weeks**. Class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 4–6 PM. (tentative)

Introduction to QuickBooks (English & Spanish) begins **June 2nd for 6 weeks**. Mondays from 6–8 PM.

All classes are held at the SPEDC offices: 13830 San Pablo Avenue, Suite D. Call 510-215-3200 or visit www.sanpabloedc.org

GRAND OPENING San Pablo Community Center @ Helms Middle School



The construction crews are placing final touches on the new San Pablo Community Center at Helms Middle School.

Grand Opening Ceremony
Thursday, June 5, 2014
2450 Road 20, San Pablo

The new center will benefit the whole community and fulfill an unmet need in providing additional parks and recreational facilities. It will help the City's goal of providing healthier choices, positive recreational programs, and services for our underserved community. Come and check out this new facility and all that it has to offer!

Community Center Features:

- Large multi-purpose space with a kitchen

- 2 small meeting spaces/classrooms
- Teen lounge
- Computer room
- Fitness room

Outdoor Space Features:

- New basketball courts
- Skate park
- Play structure
- Edible gardens

If you have questions or new ideas for the Community Center, contact Mike Heller, Project Manager, at 510-215-3071, or at MikeH@sanpabloca.gov.



Public Safety: Facts on **MEASURE K**

On March 3, 2014, the City Council authorized a quarter-cent transactions and use tax (sales tax), called Measure K, be placed on the June 3, 2014 ballot due to the threat of the emergency medical services presently being provided through County Fire Station #70 being severely cut back.



MEASURE K BALLOT LANGUAGE

“To ensure continued and adequate Emergency Medical Services for San Pablo residents, given the recent threat that County Fire Station #70, which is located in San Pablo, may be downsized or closed and given that Station 70 presently provides 100% of the EMS services for all San Pablo residents, shall San Pablo increase its sales tax by one-quarter percent to fund the creation of an Emergency Medical Services Squad, with mandatory audits, community oversight, and annual reporting.”

County Fire Station #70, operated by Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (ConFire), is located in downtown San Pablo. Local residents depend upon ConFire Station #70 for 100% of their EMS services. Thus, should these services be cut back, all San Pablo residents will be placed in serious jeopardy.

If Measure K passes by San Pablo voters, it will authorize a quarter-cent increase in the City’s sales tax; from 9% to 9.25%. Thus, the cost of a purchase of \$100, where sales tax applies, will increase from \$109.00 to \$109.25.

FACTS ABOUT THE CITY’S EMS SALES TAX MEASURE K:

FACT: The tax will NOT be charged on food nor medicine.

FACT: Passage of Measure K will NOT increase local property taxes.

FACT: There is no “sunset”; 100% of the funds generated through the approval of Measure K will be dedicated to providing EMS services for San Pablo residents into perpetuity.

FACT: Before deciding to place Measure K on the local ballot, the City conducted a scientific survey of San Pablo voters in January 2014. Over three quarters (77%) of

the respondents said they would either definitely or probably vote YES on such a funding Measure.

FACT: City officials also met with community leaders, twice (Citizens’ Advisory Committee members) to discuss community priorities and options for addressing this pending crisis.

FACT: Residents can go to: www.sanpabloca.gov to download and review an Impartial Analysis of Measure K completed by the City Attorney.

FACT: All Measure K documents: San Pablo City Council Staff Report, Resolution, and Ordinance documents adopted on March 3, 2014; and City Scientific Survey Results, are also available to download and review at the City’s webpage: www.sanpabloca.gov.

How will the \$\$\$ be Spent?

If passed by San Pablo voters, the money generated through Measure K will be used to create an EMS Squad that will operate out of ConFire Station 70; it will operate 24/7; and, it will enhance Emergency Medical Services for San Pablo residents, while simultaneously reducing the cost of operating the fire station, thus minimizing the likelihood that County

officials will be forced to cut EMS services to San Pablo residents or close Station 70, altogether.

Due to ConFire’s current financial and operational crisis, should County officials decide to either cut back EMS services to San Pablo residents, or close ConFire Station #70 at any point in the future, these funds from Measure K will be dedicated 100% to providing EMS services exclusively to San Pablo residents.

Additionally, City officials will have the money needed for permanently maintaining these services through other means (e.g., contracting with neighboring communities for EMS services or helping create a Special Fire District comprised of several communities facing similar challenges). In other words, San Pablo residents will no longer have to rely solely upon Contra Costa County officials for their Emergency Medical Services.

FACT: It is estimated that Measure K will generate approximately \$600,000 annually; the City will dedicate an additional \$400,000 per year from the City’s General Fund in order to guarantee that the EMS Squad will be permanently funded.

FACT: The sales tax will generate income from non-residents, as well as residents, when commuters purchase gas, frequent local restaurants, and shop in San Pablo.

FACT: The sales tax provides funding that CANNOT be seized (taken away) by the State of CA; rather, these monies will remain in San Pablo to benefit local residents.

Additional Facts to Assist Voters in Making an INFORMED Decision

ConFire Station #70, while being located in downtown San Pablo, is NOT a City-owned and operated facility. Rather, it is part of a 22-station Countywide fire protection system and governed by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

ConFire Station #70 (in San Pablo) is the second busiest County fire station in the County, with over 3,000 service calls annually, and a huge majority (83%) of service calls related to Emergency Medical Services.

FACT: Approximately 83% of all service calls at ConFire Station #70 are EMS calls.

FACT: Due to budget restrictions that grew out of the downturned

CRITICAL ISSUES FACING SAN PABLO

DOCTOR'S MEDICAL CENTER MEASURE C AND HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Doctor's Medical Center in San Pablo is scheduled to close its doors in July 2014 if it does not attain the requisite 2/3rds vote to fund a District-wide parcel tax, called Measure C, (between \$168-280 per residential parcel) on May 6, 2014 which will lead to longer ambulance transport and emergency medical services response times in San Pablo. This reality makes the health care crisis facing San Pablo even worse; thus, increasing the need to create an EMS Squad in order to maintain adequate 24/7 Emergency Medical Services for San Pablo residents.

FUTURE CONFIRE STATION #70 SERVICE CUTBACKS OR CLOSURE

The amount of funding that San Pablo pays ConFire, annually, does NOT nearly cover the cost of EMS and Fire Suppression services being provided to San Pablo residents at ConFire Station #70. As a result, this is an incentive for the County Board of Supervisors to severely cut back services presently being provided to San Pablo residents.

IMPACT ON LOCAL RESIDENTS

of increased Sales Tax by 1/4 cent from 9% to 9.25%

Amount Purchased	Add Current Sales Tax: (9.00%)	Current Amount Spent: (plus tax)	Net Increase of 1/4 Cent: (+0.25%)	New Amount Spent: (with new tax)
\$1	+ \$0.09	\$1.09	+ \$0.00 cents	\$1.09
\$50	+ \$4.50	\$54.50	+ \$0.13 cents	\$54.63
\$100	+ \$9.00	\$109.00	+ \$0.25 cents	\$109.25

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF CENTS



economy, today, ConFire #70 only staffs three (3) fire fighter/paramedics on one (1) Engine Company which is currently below NFPA standards.

FACT: ConFire Station #70 provides fire and EMS services to San Pablo, PLUS seven (7) unincorporated County nearby geographic service areas: Bayview, Mifflin-Barranca, Montalvin Manor, North Richmond, Rollingwood, Tara Hills and portions of El Sobrante/East Richmond Heights.

Costs Associated with Operating ConFire Station #70

FACT: ConFire Station #70 currently costs ConFire \$2.8 million annually to operate.

FACT: The City of Richmond Fire Department bills ConFire annually for fire suppression services provided to San Pablo residents through an arrangement called: Automatic Aid (when additional support is needed). In 2012, ConFire paid Richmond Fire Depart-

ment a total of \$282,000 for Automatic Aid involving 564 service calls for Fire Suppression and EMS calls responded to in San Pablo.

parcel tax measure is likely to occur prior to FY 2016-17 to continue to fund ConFire operations and services.



FACT: In 2012, due to a state redevelopment apportionment statute, San Pablo provided a limited share of property taxes (approximately \$811,000) annually to the County for supporting fire services due to the City's redevelopment project area which encompasses 94% of the City.

Fiscal Challenges Facing the Contra Costa Special Fire District

Since 2008, ConFire has seen a \$32 million decline in property tax revenues, which (with the exception of Automatic Aid) is the single source of funding for the ConFire District. The ConFire District is facing insolvency by end of Fiscal Year 2016-17. This is due, in large part, to an ongoing structural budget deficit of \$6 million to \$10 million annually per year.

In November 2012, the County Fire Protection District (ConFire) placed a \$75 per parcel tax measure (Measure Q) on the Countywide ballot which failed to reach the requisite 2/3rds vote needed to pass. This forced Contra County officials to ultimately close five (5) ConFire stations during 2013. These were located in the cities of: Clayton, Concord, Martinez, Pittsburg, and Pleasant Hill. Another Countywide

The San Pablo City Council unanimously passed a Resolution in Support of ConFire's Measure Q, a Countywide Fire Parcel Tax Measure in 2012, since public safety was then, and remains today, the City's TOP PRIORITY (based upon a scientific survey of the community-at-large conducted annually by the City since 2010).

History of Fire and EMS Protection in San Pablo

FACT: In 1926, San Pablo County Fire Protection District was formed to provide fire services for the San Pablo community (then an unincorporated portion of the Contra Costa County).

FACT: In 1974, the San Pablo County Fire Protection District consolidated with the El Sobrante County Fire Protection District due to financial difficulties.

FACT: In 1975, the West County Fire Protection District was formed and continued to provide fire services to San Pablo.

FACT: In 1994, the West County Fire Protection District merged into the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District for fire suppression and EMS services in San Pablo, which remains in place, today. ■



**BIKE TO WORK DAY:
MAY 8TH**



**Enjoy the Spring Breeze!
Help the Environment, and
Get Some Exercise!**

**It's official: Bike to Work Day
will be happening on Thurs-
day May 8th, 2014!**

Once again the City of San Pablo is sponsoring this event and joining with the East Bay Bike Coalition who will be hosting hundreds of Energizer Stations throughout the East Bay - distributing goodie bags and celebrating the joy of biking, including one here in SAN PABLO @ City Hall! We hope to see you biking to work, school, or even around your neighborhood on May 8th!

ADA WORKSHOPS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES & PROPERTY OWNERS

- April 23rd at 9:00 AM in Pleasant Hill: 500 Ellinwood Drive, 3rd Floor, Conference rooms A & B, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
- May 7th at 9:00 AM in Brentwood Community Center, 2nd Floor Conference room, 35 Oak Street, Brentwood, CA 94513 with parking at 150 City Park Way, Brentwood, CA 94513
- June 10th at 9:00 AM in Pittsburg City of Pittsburg, Council Chambers, 65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg, CA 94565

RSVP by calling 510-215-3200 or visit www.sanpabloedc.org/ADA.

Is This Worth Risking a Lawsuit?

Sometimes, Moving Four Screws Makes All the Difference.



Cal Accessibility © 2/28/2012

Nearly 39% of the population is disabled or has special accessibility needs. The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requires all businesses to provide accommodation for those with disabilities. Compliance is worthwhile as it protects your business while making it more accessible and enjoyable for 39% of the population. That's a lot of new, happy customers!

Protect your business from ADA lawsuits and learn your responsibilities, rights and protections under the law by attending a workshop.

The San Pablo EDC, with the support from the Contra Costa CDBG program and Small Business Development Center, leads a series of informative workshops throughout the county. These are short, informative and visually engaging presentations.

Facts for Your Consideration:

- The number of times you may be sued over a physical barrier or ADA violation is unlimited
- Attorneys may send a letter to a business alerting them of a potential issue, but the letter can't include a "demand for money."
- Paying an attorney threatening to sue does not prevent a lawsuit brought by that attorney, nor any other attorney or plaintiff.

Investing in a Certified Access Specialist (CASP) inspection is the best way to protect your business. A CASp inspector is a State-certified specialist licensed to assess

business properties for compliance. The SPEDC has a list of available State-licensed CASp inspectors serving the county, as well as a guide of how to choose one.

CASP Inspection Assistance and Compliance Program

San Pablo businesses can save from \$400 to \$1,000 through the City's reduced rates program. The SPEDC is happy to provide more information and assistance completing the brief forms. Call 510-215-3200 and get the forms at www.sanpabloedc.org/ADA.

To save even more, take advantage of tax code 44, which provides up to \$5,000 annually for ADA barrier removal, including half of the cost of the CASp inspection. Speak with your tax professional.

Take action today and attend a workshop (See the schedule of upcoming ADA workshops on the left column). ■

What You Don't Know Can Hurt Your Business.

Average cost to comply with a plaintiff's barrier removal request: <\$4,000 per plaintiff visit plus attorneys' fees

Average cost of a settlement \$30,000

Potential statutory damages per ADA violation with a CASp inspection: \$1,000 per visit plus attorneys fee

Potential statutory damages per ADA violation without a CASp inspection: \$4,000 per visit plus attorneys' fees

Lawsuit stay with a CASp inspection: 60 days in Federal court/90 in State court (time allowed to address barrier)

Lawsuit stay without a CASp inspection = 0 to 30 days, depending

Amount of tax credit given for \$10,250 of ADA compliance work to your business: up to \$5,000 (covers half the CASp inspection)

Amount of tax credit given for no ADA compliance work to your business: \$0

Thinking of Starting a Business or Growing an Existing One?

Enroll Into Our Free Entrepreneur and Small Business Workshops.

Starting a business may be intimidating and overwhelming but we are here to make the process less frightening. The San Pablo EDC, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), is hosting free bilingual entrepreneur and small business workshops. All workshops take place at the SPEDC offices, 13830 San Pablo Avenue, Suite D (at Church Lane), San Pablo, CA

Upcoming Workshops

Creative Financing for Business: Finding Funding for the 21st Century Entrepreneur

This seminar will help identify and assess a business' financial needs, identify sources of funding, what makes a good loan package, and critical information that lender or investor need to finance your business. How do you position your business to be approved for financing? Learn the secrets from a former banker and know what the lenders are looking for and the questions the lenders want answered. What do you do when you are declined for a bank loan? We will discuss other options available, including crowd-funding, nonprofit micro-

loans, SBA loans, Angel investors and venture capital funding.

Date & Time:

Thursday, May 15th, 2014
from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Local Manufacturing Workshop-Made in Contra Costa

Free 3-hour workshop where you will learn the 5 things you should know about local manufacturing:

- Does Local Manufacturing Make Sense?
- Should I Make It Myself, Get Help or Buy?
- What is My Supply Chain; Why is it Important?
- How Do I Get Things From Here to There?
- Can Anyone Help Me Finance This?

Date & Time:

Thursday, May 15th, 2014
from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

International Trade Event

Free workshop to learn about government resources that can help even the smallest companies to identify, assess and pursue overseas business opportunities; hear how other East Bay companies are using international trade to grow their business; and, meet trade experts who can provide practical advice and technical assistance.

Date & Time - Spanish:

Wednesday, May 28th, 2014
from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Date & Time - English:

Not yet confirmed at press time.
Call us at 510-215-3200.

RSVP today! If you missed the April 2nd "First Steps" workshop and the April 12 "Action Planning" workshop in English, call us at 510-215-3200 for future dates and more information. ■

BOARD & COMMISSION VACANCIES

The Advisory Commission on Aging is still accepting applications to fill one vacant commissioner position. If you are interested contact the Deputy City Clerk, Lehny Corbin at 510-215-3005 or e-mail: LehnyC@SanPabloCA.Gov.

West Contra Costa Unified School District - Citizens' Board Oversight Committee

is accepting applications from individuals wishing to serve as the City of San Pablo's representative on this Committee. The Committee is in charge of reviewing and reporting on the expenditure and uses of bond revenues. If you are interested contact the Deputy City Clerk, Lehny Corbin at 510-215-3005 or e-mail: LehnyC@SanPabloCA.Gov.

Need a Power Up?

The City of San Pablo, in partnership with the cities of EI Cerrito, Albany and Piedmont, were awarded a grant funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Showcase Communities Program to establish the Small Cities Climate Action Partnership (SCCAP). As part of this grant the City not only developed solar panels in the parking lots of its major facilities, but also has included Electrical Vehicle charging stations!

This project helps considerably further the City of San Pablo's pursuit for clean energy alternatives and Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and encourages the use of clean energy vehicles by providing charging stations to owners of electric cars who can now charge up, while at City Hall! ■

clean energy



EL PORTAL EN ESPAÑOL

Esta publicación está disponible en español en la pagina web:
www.sanpabloca.gov

(From page 1)

EL PORTAL

El Portal is a quarterly update of developments and programs serving the citizens and businesses of San Pablo, California. The newsletter, a collaborative project by San Pablo City staff and the Economic Development Corporation, is designed to enhance communication within the community.

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E-MAIL UPDATES

Receive e-mail updates on City programs and services, go to www.Sanpabloca.gov and register your e-mail address. To be added to the SPEDC newsblast list, drop us a line at info@sanpabloedc.org.

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/sanpabloca
www.facebook.com/sanpabloEDC



program called FLOW as part of the “Design it/Build it/Ship it” grant, and was the first to get a job training program under this grant off the ground.

- **To date, the FLOW program has completed three cohorts and started the fourth. Of the nearly 100 West County residents trained thus far, 10 are San Pablo residents.**
- **Speaker: Eldridge Manchester, graduate**

The Stride Center

The Stride Center offers our residents who are passionate about a career in IT the opportunity to earn up to two internationally recognized certifications in the IT field at no cost, as well as paid internship opportunities to give graduates the essential work experience they need to be competitive.

- **Thus far, 7 San Pablo residents have enrolled in the program with spots for 8 more.**
- **Speaker: Richard Horne, student**

Moler Barber College

Moler Barber College provides a well-rounded barbering and cosmetology program, including the opportunity to sit for the license exam. This formalized program provides an avenue for entrepreneurship and is a viable career option for the re-entry population.

- **Grants have been provided to 4 San Pablo residents enrolled in the program with 1 spot remaining**
- **Speaker: Brandon Pineda, student**

Removing Barriers



Removing Barriers is a multipurpose adult tattoo removal and job readiness program de-



Left: Drew Douglass, Enjema Hudson and Benjamin Castro

signed to remove the visible barriers to employment and career advancement, while building the soft and hard skills to obtain and retain a job. This program is done in partnership with the City of San Pablo and New Skin Adult Tattoo Removal. Other key contributors include Wardrobe for opportunity, Community Financial Resources and the San Pablo Rotary Club.

- **Clinic: four-hour tattoo removal clinic every third Saturday of the month staffed with an amazing cadre of volunteers.**
- **Program: 20 sessions of hard- and soft-skills job readiness training, including financial literacy.**
- **Since the program began in April, we've served 160 clients, 59% of which are West County residents.**
- **We do this program to make a difference in people's lives. The shifts in confidence make it all worthwhile. A participant shared, “Removing tattoos can be like removing both physical and emotional scars from your life and allow you to move on.”**

- **Speaker: Benjamin Castro, Clinic participant**
- **Speaker: Raquel Garcia, Removing Barriers Job Readiness graduate and Clinic participant**

Other partners included the Workforce Development Board, East Bay Works/San Pablo One Stop, Small Business Development Center, and State of California's Division of Apprenticeship Standards. Event sponsors included Mechanics Bank, PG&E, Ubisoft and Townsend Public Affairs.

These programs are significant opportunities for our workforce who have been faced with under- or unemployment due to a lack of a competitive skillset or a college degree. The SPEDC milestone event brought together all involved to recognize the change that's underway and celebrate the collective effort.

If you would like to see the photos or video of the event, go to www.sanpabloedc.org and click on the *Featured Event* video on the bottom-right of the page. ■